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**Congress of the United States**  
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**Washington, DC 20515-4604**

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

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October 19, 2017

Mr. Jeffrey Bezos  
President, Chief Executive Officer,  
and Chairman of the Board  
Amazon.com, Inc.  
410 Terry Avenue North  
Seattle, Washington 98109

**Re: Amazon HQ2 Proposals from the Greater Richmond and Hampton Roads Regions in Virginia**

Dear Mr. Bezos:

As Amazon considers proposals to host its second corporate headquarters (HQ2), I urge you to give due consideration to sites in the Commonwealth of Virginia — particularly in the greater Richmond and Hampton Roads regions. These communities match many of the “decision drivers” criteria spelled out in Amazon’s request for proposals; I believe a campus in either region could flourish.

Virginia is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. *U.S. News & World Report* recently [named](#) Richmond the 24<sup>th</sup>-best place to live in the United States; the city has [repeatedly earned](#) similar recognition from other publications (as have other Virginia communities). Both the Richmond area and Hampton Roads boast large, diverse populations, storied histories, beautiful parks and public spaces, and unique, vibrant local cultures.

Additionally, the Commonwealth has a highly educated workforce. Roughly 36% of Virginians have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher; according to *U.S. News & World Report*, Virginia [hosts](#) the third and sixth-best public universities in the nation. Moreover, Virginians have the job skills that companies like Amazon need. More than 291,000 [work](#) in tech industry jobs — about 7.7% of the state’s workforce. (In this respect, the Commonwealth [ranks](#) third in the nation.)

Virginia is well connected to the rest of the country and world, and becoming better connected all the time; in 2013, the Commonwealth approved a major, bipartisan overhaul of funding for its transportation system. Both Richmond and Hampton Roads boast international airports, ready access to interstate highways, and inter-city passenger rail service. Mass transit options in both regions are expanding, as well.

Amazon already does business in the Commonwealth; as you know, Virginia state government is stable and steady. The Commonwealth has [had](#) a AAA bond rating continually since 1938, and both [Forbes](#) and [CNBC](#) deem us one of the ten best states for business. Virginia's corporate income tax rate has [stood](#) at six percent since 1972.

Finally, I would add that I represent parts of both the greater Richmond area and Hampton Roads in Congress. I meet with citizens from both regions every day. You will not find better, more welcoming people anywhere in the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress